

PATENT  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Masanori NAKAHARA et al. )  
Application No.: 09/891,470 ) Group Art Unit: 2615  
Filed: June 27, 2001 ) Examiner: To Be Assigned  
For: INFORMATION RECORDING )  
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION )  
RECORDING METHOD, AND )  
INFORMATION RECORDING )  
MEDIUM )

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was cited in an European Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on June 2, 2003 in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application, and no fees are believed to be necessary.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitutes "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Dated: June 23, 2003

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